

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing for later authentication a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device, comprising the steps of:

transmitting one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data from a remote location to the digital image capture device;

associating an image identification with the captured digital still image;

applying the one of signature data to the captured digital still image within the image capture device to produce an authentication signature without image content representative of the captured digital still image;

associating the authentication signature with the image identification;

transmitting the authentication signature to the remote location; and

storing the signature data, authentication signature, and image identification at the remote location; wherein said captured digital still image is not transmitted to or stored at said remote location .

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of capturing the digital still image after the signature data is transmitted to the digital image capture device from the remote location.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the signature data from the remote location is transmitted to the digital image capture device prior to the capture of the digital still image.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the signature data from the remote location is transmitted to the digital image capture device subsequent to the capture of the digital still image.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the remote location comprises a database for storing the authentication signature.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a message indicative of receipt of the authentication signature by the remote location.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of associating the signature data with the image identification.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device and processed using one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data to produce an authentication signature without image content wherein the authentication signature is stored at a remote location for later use in verifying the authentication of the captured digital still image, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting the digital still image to the remote location;  
accessing the signature data;

applying the signature data to the transmitted digital still image to produce a verification signature without image content;

accessing the authentication signature without image content stored at the remote location; and

comparing the authentication signature without image content with the verification signature without image content to determine the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of producing an authentication message indicative of the authentication of the digital still image.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of transmitting an authentication code to verify the authentication of the authentication message.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of verifying the authenticity of the signature data.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a digital still image having an image identification and captured using a digital image capture device and processed using one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data to produce an authentication signature without image data wherein the authentication signature without image content, signature data, and image identification is stored at a remote location for later use in verifying the authentication of the captured digital still image, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting an authentication request for the digital still image;

determining the image identification for the digital still image to be authenticated;

determining, from the remote location, the signature data and authentication signature without image content associated with the image identification;

transmitting the signature data from the remote location to an authentication location remote from the remote location;

applying the signature data to the digital still image to be authenticated at the authentication location to produce a verification signature without image content;

transmitting the verification signature without image content from the authentication location to the remote location; and

comparing the authentication signature without image data and the verification signature without image content to determine the authentication of the digital still image.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of producing an authentication message indicative of the authentication of the digital still image.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of transmitting an authentication code to verify the authentication of the authentication message.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the authentication location is the digital image capture device or a personal computer.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device, comprising the steps of:

transmitting one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data from a remote location to the digital image capture device;

associating an image identification with the digital still image;

applying the signature data to the captured digital still image within the image capture device to produce an authentication signature without image content representative of the captured digital still image;

associating the authentication signature with the image identification;

transmitting the authentication signature to the remote location;

storing the signature data, authentication signature without image content, and image identification at the remote location;

transmitting the digital still image to the remote location;

accessing the signature data for the transmitted digital still image;

applying the signature data to the transmitted digital still image to produce a verification signature without image content; and

comparing the authentication signature without image content with the verification signature without image content to determine the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of producing an authentication message indicative of the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein the signature data from the remote location is transmitted to the digital image capture device prior to the capture of the digital still image.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein the remote location comprises a database for storing the authentication signature.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of transmitting a message indicative of receipt of the authentication signature by the remote location.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device, comprising the steps of:

transmitting one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data from a remote location to the digital image capture device;

associating an image identification with the captured digital still image;

applying the signature data to the captured digital still image within the image capture device to produce an authentication signature without image content representative of the captured digital still image;

associating the authentication signature without image content with the image identification;

transmitting the authentication signature without image content to the remote location;

storing the signature data, authentication signature without image data, and image identification at the remote location location ;wherein said captured digital still image is not transmitted to or stored at said remote location;

initiating an authentication request from an authentication location remote from the remote location, the digital still image to be authenticated being disposed at the authentication location;

transmitting the signature data to the authentication location;

applying the signature data to the digital still image to be authenticated at the authentication location to produce a verification signature without image content;

transmitting the verification signature without image content to the remote location; and

comparing, at the remote location, the authentication signature without image content with the verification signature without image content to determine the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of transmitting the digital still image to be authenticated to the authentication location.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of producing an authentication message indicative of the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the signature data from the remote location is transmitted to the digital image capture device prior to the capture of the digital still image.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the authentication location is a digital image capture device or a computer.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of transmitting a message indicative of receipt of the authentication signature by the remote location.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data from a remote location to the digital image capture device;

associating an image identification with the captured digital still image;

applying the signature data to the captured digital still image within the image capture device to produce an authentication signature without image content representative of the captured digital still image;

associating the image identification with the authentication signature;

transmitting the authentication signature to the remote location;

storing the signature data, authentication signature, and image identification at the remote location location; wherein said captured digital still image is not transmitted to or stored at said remote location;

transmitting the signature data from a remote location to the digital image capture device;

applying the signature data to the digital still image at the digital image capture device to produce a verification signature without image content;

transmitting the verification signature without image content from the digital image capture device to the remote location; and

comparing the authentication signature without image content with the verification signature without image content to determine the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of, prior to transmitting the signature data from the remote location to the digital image capture device, transmitting an authentication request for the digital still image to the remote location from the digital image capture device.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of producing an authentication message indicative of the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for processing for later authentication a digital still image, comprising:

a digital image capture device for capturing the digital still image;

a remote location remote from the digital image capture device comprising a database for storing one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data, an authentication signature without image content, and an

image identification, the image identification being associated with the digital still image captured by the digital image capture device, and the authentication signature without image content being associated with the image identification;

communication means for transmitting the signature data from the remote location to the digital image capture device, and transmitting the authentication signature without image content from the digital still image to the remote location; and

an image processor disposed in the digital image capture device for applying the signature data to the captured digital still image to produce the authentication signature without image content, the authentication signature without image content being representative of the captured digital still image.

31. (Original) The system of Claim 30, wherein the signature data comprises a hashing algorithm.

32. (Original) The system of Claim 30, further comprising a messaging system for producing an authentication message indicative of the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

33. (Currently Amended) A system for authenticating a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device and processed using one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data provided to the digital image capture device to produce an authentication signature without image content representative of the digital still image, the system comprising:

a remote location remote from the digital image capture device comprising a database for storing the signature data and authentication signature without image content; wherein said captured digital still image is not transmitted to or stored at said remote location;

communication means for transmitting the digital still image to the remote location for authentication; and

a processor located at the remote location for applying the signature data to the transmitted digital still image to produce a verification signature without image content and comparing the authentication signature with the verification signature to determine the authentication of the digital still image.

34. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the remote location further comprises a messaging system for producing an authentication message indicative of the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

35. (Currently Amended) A system for authenticating a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device and processed using one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data provided to the digital image capture device to produce an authentication signature without image content representative of the digital still image, the signature data and authentication signature being stored at the remote location, location; wherein said captured digital still image is not transmitted to or stored at said remote location, the system comprising:

an authentication location remote from the digital image capture device and remote location for authenticating the digital still image;

communication means for (a) transmitting the digital still image to the authentication location for authentication, (b) accessing and transmitting the signature data for the transmitted digital still image from the remote location to the authentication location, and (c) transmitting a verification signature from the authentication location to the remote location;

a processor located at the authentication location for applying the signature data to the transmitted digital still image to produce the verification signature without image content; and

a comparator located at the remote location for comparing the authentication signature with the verification signature to determine the authentication of the digital still image.

36. (Original) The system of Claim 35, further comprising a messaging system for producing an authentication message indicative of the authentication of the transmitted digital still image.

37. (Original) A digital still image processed according to the method of Claim 1.

38. (Original) A computer storage product having at least one computer storage medium having instructions stored therein causing one or more computers to perform the method of Claim 1.

39. (Original) A computer storage product having at least one computer storage medium having instructions stored therein causing one or more computers to perform the method of Claim 8.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of processing for later authentication a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device, comprising the steps of:

transmitting one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data from a remote location to the digital image capture device;

associating an image identification with the captured digital still image;

segmenting the captured digital still image into a plurality of segments;

applying the signature data to each of the plurality of segments to produce a plurality of segment authentication signatures without image content;

transmitting the plurality of segment authentication signatures to the remote location; and

storing the signature data, plurality of segment authentication signatures, and image identification at the remote location; wherein said captured digital still image is not transmitted to or stored at said remote location.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of processing for later authentication a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device, comprising the steps of:

transmitting one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data from a remote location to the digital image capture device;

associating an image identification with the captured digital still image;

segmenting the captured digital still image into a plurality of segments;

applying the signature data to at least one of the plurality of segments to produce an authentication signature without image content;  
transmitting the authentication signature to the remote location;  
and

storing the signature data, authentication signature, and image identification at the remote location; wherein said captured digital still image is not transmitted to or stored at said remote location.

42. (Currently Amended) A method of processing for later authentication a digital still image captured using a digital image capture device, comprising the steps of:

at a first time, transmitting one of signature data from a plurality of different signature data from a remote location to the digital image capture device;  
associating an image identification with the captured digital still image;

applying the signature data to the captured digital still image to produce an authentication signature without image content representative of the captured digital still image;

associating the authentication signature with the image identification;

at a second time different than the first time, transmitting the authentication signature to the remote location; and

storing the first time, second time, signature data, authentication signature, and image identification at the remote location; wherein said captured digital still image is not transmitted to or stored at said remote location.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein the first time and second time are determined by the digital image capture device.